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Ceramics historian at Georgia Southern Oct. 17

OCTOBER 1, 2007

Ceramics historian Margaret Carney will present "10,000 years of World Ceramics" at Georgia Southern University on Wednesday, Oct. 17, at 5 p.m. in the Assembly Hall of the Nessmith-Lane Building. Her talk is free of charge and open to the public.

Carney is a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society and an elected member of the International Academy of Ceramics in Switzerland. A museum professional for more than three decades, she teaches ceramic world history annually at Ohio State University.

Carney holds a doctorate in Asian Art history and has received grants from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American Art, the Renwick Gallery, and the Tile Heritage Foundation. She is curator of the Blair Museum of Lithophanes in Toledo, Ohio, and is currently writing a book on lithophanes.

Carney's visit is part of the fall semester's visiting artist series in the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art at Georgia Southern University. For more information call (912) 681-5358.

Irish muralist Tom Kelly to speak Oct. 16

OCTOBER 1, 2007

Bogside Artist Tom Kelly will visit Georgia Southern University Tuesday, Oct. 16, at 7 p.m. to present "Protest, Peace and Reconciliation: Murals by The Bogside Artists of Northern Ireland." His talk takes place in the Performing Arts Center, corner of Plant and Chandler Roads, and it is free of charge and open to the public.

Kelly's presentation is in conjunction with the current Georgia Southern Museum exhibition, "From Protest to Peace: Murals by The Bogside Artists of Northern Ireland."

The display includes large-scale digital reproductions of 11 wall-paintings located on buildings along Rossville Street in the Northern Ireland city of Derry. The murals depict events from the recent troubled history of Northern Ireland, drawing visitors from around the world.

Tom Kelly grew up during "the Troubles," a time of conflict between Northern Ireland's Protestant unionists and Catholic nationalists that began in the late 1960s and continued throughout the 20th century. Kelly, his brother William Kelly, and their friend Kevin Hasson, known collectively as The Bogside Artists, painted 11 stunning murals that record events from this troubled time. The "Troubles" began in Derry in 1968, when the Protestant authorities attempted to curtail or ban Catholic civil rights marches that emulated the pacifist example of Martin Luther King Jr.

"In recognizing and acknowledging a troubled past, the images of the artists serve as healing instruments in the difficult reconciliation process," said Bob Frigo, assistant director of the University

Honors Program and a co-curator of the exhibit. 'What sets The Bogside Artists apart from other muralists in Northern Ireland is their use of the mural as a peace-building tool in local cross-community workshops. Their workshops are a model for advancing the peace and reconciliation process on a grass-roots level in Northern Ireland.'

The exhibit of The Bogside Artists' murals can be viewed at the Georgia Southern University Museum Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. Admission is free. The murals will on display through January 6, 2008.

More information about the 'From Protest to Peace' is available at <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/irish/murals/>

Georgia Southern challenged to start LivinGreen

OCTOBER 1, 2007

Georgia Southern graduate student Matt Parker wanted to do something to reduce his impact on the environment, especially since he lives so close to campus.

'I had come to realize that for as close to campus as I live, I drove a bit too much,' Parker said.

Rather than just walking more and trying to drive his car less and leaving it at that, Parker sought to get the entire campus community involved. After collaborating with members of Campus Recreation and Intramurals and the University Wellness Program, the concept of LivinGreen emerged. The LivinGreen Challenge is a 10, 20 or 30-day challenge to walk, ride bicycles or carpool to show the ease in limiting motor-vehicle dependence in Statesboro.

The LivinGreen challenge hopes to raise awareness about fossil fuel usage and show people how easy it is to make simple lifestyle adjustments to reduce their dependency on it.

Dustin Sanderson, director of Southern Adventures for Campus Recreation and Intramurals, said they're hoping to get at least 100 participants for the inaugural year.

'I would love to blow right past that goal,' he said. 'I'd love to hit 100 and keep going. If we got 500 and they did the 10-day challenge, that'd be awesome. We'd still have 500 people who made an impact and would have that much more of an impact with the people around them.'

Participants can choose to go for any 10, 20 or 30 consecutive days in October.

Sanderson has already started making changes by riding his bicycle to work rather than taking his car. He said it takes him about the same amount of time to cycle to work as it does to drive.

The event is a collaboration between CRI and the University Wellness Program. Nigel Davies, university wellness program director, said that while it was started by those two groups, it is a campus-wide event and wants as many people as possible to participate.

'It's only going to be as good as the people participating,'" Davies said.

Those participating in the challenge will be given t-shirts and sponsors are being lined up to donate prizes and incentives to those who take part, Parker said.

'We want people to see that carpooling is not that bad or that riding their bike is fun and they can see the world from a new perspective when they do it,'" Davies said. 'This is a personal challenge. No one is going to be coming up behind you and checking on you.'

Southern Adventures is planning activities on weekends during October such as movie showings, kickball games and possibly a campout on Sweetheart Circle. In addition, prizes will be awarded during Wellness Week, which is October 29 – November 2.

Changes made to Georgia Southern in recent years have also helped reduce the number of times people drive on campus, especially the effort to make the university more of a walking campus. Also, the addition of the bus system around campus has led to an increase in the number of people walking or riding their bicycles to class, Davies said.

Registration for the free event begins on Wednesday, September 26 at Member Services inside the RAC and at the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement. For more information, contact CRI at 681-5436.

More information about CRI is available at <http://welcome.georgiasouthern.edu/wellness/LivinGreen/index.html>.

Georgia Southern Museum hosts world premiere of "From Protest to Peace"

OCTOBER 1, 2007

Visitors to the Georgia Southern University Museum this fall will view, for the first time outside of its original venue, a stunning exhibition of international public art.

The display, titled 'From Protest to Peace: Murals by the Bogside Artists of Northern Ireland,' includes eleven wall-paintings located on buildings along Rossville Street in the Northern Ireland city of Derry. The murals depict events from the recent troubled history of Northern Ireland.

'It's a real coup for us to have the world premiere of this exhibit,'" said Howard Keeley, director of the University's Center for Irish Studies and a co-curator of the exhibition. 'The murals will be here until January 2008, and when they leave here, they will be traveling to a number of museums and universities around the U.S.'

The murals depicted in the exhibition were created by three men, Tom Kelly, his brother William Kelly, and their friend, Kevin Hasson, known collectively as The Bogside Artists. The artists are three distinct individuals: a humanist, a republican and a committed Christian. All three have personally experienced the unfolding of the Troubles' during their lifetimes.

In painting the murals, the men continued an Ulster (Northern Ireland) tradition of using murals as a vehicle for social commentary, but they have taken the tradition further. The Bogside Artists use their murals in cross-community workshops involving both Protestant and Catholic youth to initiate discussions focused on the history and context embedded in the murals. The art is used to revisit the past, but also to encourage participants to reflect on their history beyond traditionally established boundaries. The result is a grass-roots effort designed to help move the process of peace and reconciliation forward.

In recognizing and acknowledging a troubled past, the images of the artists serve as healing instruments in the difficult reconciliation process, ' said Bob Frigo, assistant director of the University Honors Program and a co-curator of the exhibit. 'What sets The Bogside Artists apart from other muralists in Northern Ireland is their use of the mural as a peace-building tool in local cross-community workshops."

The murals have been digitally reproduced in large format, and they are exhibited with educational panels that explore the history depicted in each mural. The educational panels were written by students in the Celtic Identity and Conflict course, taught by Steven Engel, director of the University Honors Program and another co-curator of the exhibit.

Six additional banners build the context of the exhibition, covering topics such as 'the Troubles'; the Bogside Artists' reconciliation workshops; and the city of Derry's colonial past.

The original images of the murals were photographed by Martin Melaugh, research fellow at the University of Ulster, Magee campus, in Derry. Recent Georgia Southern graduate Joshua Jamison created the logo image for the exhibition and graphic design for the education panels.

The Georgia Southern Museum is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information about the exhibition, contact the museum at 912-681-5444 or go to <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/museum/exhibits/>.

Continuing Education Center offers variety of online classes

OCTOBER 1, 2007

Georgia Southern University has virtual-reality students.

Without setting foot on the Statesboro campus, people of all ages and interests can take non-credit classes for professional development or personal enrichment through the University's Continuing Education Center.

The variety of Education To Go classes is staggering with around 300 online topics available. A nurse who wants to specialize in elder care can choose the 'Certificate in Gerontology' course, a teacher may be interested in 'Solving Classroom Discipline Problems,' and a fledgling author can select from among classes on poetry, mystery writing and getting published.

The most popular courses focus on creating Web pages, learning computer programming, speed Spanish, basic accounting, grant writing, and fiction writing.

“Because there is no physical classroom, courses are never canceled due to low enrollment,” said Judy Hendrix, the program specialist in charge of the Education To Go courses.

All participants must have Internet access, a Web browser (Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator), and an email address. Participants can log on to study or complete assignments at any time of the day or night.

A new section of each course begins on the second or third Wednesday of each month. During the next three months, courses will start on Oct. 17, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

Each course runs for six weeks, with a two-week grace period at the end. Two lessons are released each week for the six-week duration of the course.

Students must complete each lesson within two weeks of its release.

The fee for each course varies. For a complete listing of classes and registration information, visit <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted> and click on the Online Instruction Center. For more information, call (912) 681-5993.